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COUNTRY Philippines

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SUBJECT Possible Reasons for Changes by President Cuirino
in Department of National Defense

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PLACE 25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. There is a widespread belief in Manila that President Quirino retained Major General Mariano Castaneda, Armed Forces Chief of Staff, and relieved Ruperto Kangleon, former National Defense Secretary, because the President's only means of exerting control over Philippine armed forces is through General Castaneda.*
2. It is believed that President Quirino may have decided to send the best Philippine Army officers and enlisted men to Korea with the 10th Battalion Combat Team (BCT)** in an effort to rid the Army of mutinous elements.*** Major Napoleon Valeriano,**** an able combat officer who is greatly feared by the Hukbong Mapagpalaya Ng Bayan (HMB), and who was court-martialed in 1949 for anti-administration activities, is scheduled to command the 20th BCT if it is sent to Korea.

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reported that President Guirino was considering the possibility of declaring martial law in the Philippines and of turning the Government over to General Castaneda. 25X1A

25X1A [REDACTED] recently reported the President's personal evaluation of top Philippine military leaders. [REDACTED] reported that Castaneda would support Antonio Quirino for the Senate against Senator Peralta. 25X1A

25X1A Comment. The 10th BCT has departed for Korea.

25X1A *** [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reported on the lack of confidence of Philippine Army officers in the Quirino Administration, and revealed that staff officers have indicated a desire to replace the President with a military man. 25X1A

25X1A ~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED] Comment. Valeriano, former leader of the Nenita unit of the Philippine Constabulary, was acquitted by a court martial in April, 1950, but was subsequently reduced in rank from lieutenant colonel. [REDACTED] reported that Valeriano would be appointed G-2 of the Philippine Constabulary to replace Lieutenant Colonel Macario Assisio who was to be investigated for alleged corrupt activities.

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